



MEDIA STATEMENT

02 October 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: SOUTH LAW REFORM COMMISSION (SALRC) AND JUTA AND COMPANY 2023 LEGAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION IN HONOUR OF THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE PIUS NKONZO LANGA

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Season for the Legal Essay Writing Competition, held in honour of the late Chief Justice Pius Nkondo Langa. This esteemed competition, established in 1999 as the Ismail Mahomed Law Reform Essay Writing Competition, aims to promote critical legal writing by students while generating new ideas for law reform which are aligned with South Africa's priorities.

The 2023 season was launched on 22 September 2023 during the awards ceremony of the previous season, with the call for essays originally set to close on 29 February 2024, later extended to 12 April 2024 to encourage increased participation. This year, the SALRC received a total of 35 submissions, significantly up from the previous season's 11 entries, showcasing a marked increase in engagement from law students across the country.

Winners and Runners-Up:

- **LLB Category:**
 - **Winner:** Joshua van Rhyn, University of Cape Town — Essay Title: "The Rationalities of Reasonable Publication"
 - **Runner-Up:** McNiel Zimri, Stellenbosch University — Essay Title: "The Phenomenon of 'Epistemic Injustice' in Adversarial Court Proceedings: A Retrial on Linguistic Barriers to Section 34 of the Constitution"

- **LLM Category:**

- **Winner:** Cherity Mathe, University of Limpopo — Essay Title: “Legal Reform as a Measure to Eradicate Childhood Statelessness in South Africa”
- **Runner-Up:** Caitlin Stoltz, Rhodes University — Essay Title: “Enhancing Workplace Harmony: Severing the Link Between Harassment and Unfair Discrimination”

The essays were submitted by students from various universities, with a notable increase in entries from previously disadvantaged institutions. Including the Universities of Limpopo, North West and Fort Hare, reflecting the SALRC’s commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

The assessment panel consisted of esteemed academics and practitioners, including:

- Professor Wesahl Domingo
- Professor Debbie Collier-Reed
- Professor Karthy Govender
- Mr. Lufuno Reginald Ndou (Public Law Lecturer, University of Venda)
- Mr. Enerst Nemusimbori (Attorney and Director, Enerst Nemusimbori Attorneys Inc)

The awards ceremony to celebrate these outstanding achievements will take place on 01 November 2024 in Pretoria, from 11:00AM to 14:00PM at Brigitte Mabandla Justice College.

The SALRC and Juta and Company, congratulates all winners and participants for their outstanding contributions to legal scholarship and law reform in South Africa.

For more information, please contact Aifheli Makhwanya on 012 622 6334/083 444 7891.

ENDS.